

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF LIKUD LEADER ARYE DULZIN

1. LAST NIGHT, OVER DINNER WITH THE DCM AND EMBOFF, JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER ARYE DULZIN HELD FORTH ON THE LIKUD'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. DULZIN, ONE OF THE TOP LEADERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, IS WIDELY REGARDED AS A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER IF THE LIKUD HOLDS THIS PORTFOLIO IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HE SAID HE MIGHT HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE PRESIDENCY OF THE JEWISH AGENCY, A PRESTIGIOUS AND POWERFUL POSITION WHICH YOSEF ALMOGI IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE AFTER THE LABOR DEFEAT.)

2. DULZIN DOWN-PLAYED SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD FOREIGN POLICIES BUT REPEATEDLY SPOKE OF A CHANGE IN APPROACH. HE SAID THE U.S. COULD EXPECT "STRAIGHT TALK" FROM A LIKUD GOVERN-
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MENT. "THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THE ALIGNMENT (IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IS THAT WE ARE HONEST. THE LIKUD WILL SAY EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS."

3. SOME POSSIBLE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE LIKUD MEANS:
DULZIN SAID THERE IS NO URGENCY IN EXTENDING ISRAELI LAW TO THE WEST BANK (THE LIKUD AVOIDS USING TH

TERM ANNEXATION"). BEGIN WOULD MEET WITH ARAB LEADERS WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS. EVERYTHING, REPEAT EVERYTHING, IS OPEN TO "DISCUSSION." ASKED IF BEGIN ACCEPTED RESOLUTION 242, DULZIN SAID THAT THIS IS AN OLD ISSUE--OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. THE GOI HAD ACCEPTED 242 ND THE MATTER IS CLOSED. WHEN THE DCM ASKED WHY BEGIN HAD MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AFTER THE ELECTION AT THE UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT OF QADOUM, DULZIN SIMPLY REPLIED WITH THE QUESTION, "WHY NOT?" HE WOULD NOT CONCEDE THAT THIS COULD BE REGARDED AS A RED FLAG IN MANY QUARTERS AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD QADOUM AS HYPOCRITICAL.

4. HE THOUGH A CARTER-BEGIN MEETING WOULD BE A MAJOR RED-CARPET PRODUCTION AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE BEGIN A WARM WELCOME AND THAT THEY WOULD GET ALONG WELL. THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. BOTH ARE MEN OF PRINCIPLE WITH A HIGH MORAL COMPONENT IN THEIR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES. THERE MAY NOT BE AGREEMENT ON SOME ISSUES, BUT DULZIN WAS CERTIAN THAT RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING WOULD RESULT FROM ANY SUCH MEETING.

5. DULZIN HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT THE FILLING OF IMPORTANT POSTS IN A LIKUD GOVERNMENT BUT ADMITTED THAT THE LIKUD IS QUITE UNPREPARED FOR ITS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. HE THOUGHT THAT MOSHE NISSIM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE FOR KNESSET SPEAKER. NISSIM, 42, IS A LIBER MK AND SERVED AS THE LIKUD WHIP IN THE EIGHTH KNESSET. HE IS THE SON OF A FORMER SEPHARDIC CHIEF RABBI, A FACT WHICH DULZIN INDICATED ENHANCED HIS QUALIFICATIONS. (UNLIKE THE FORMER SPEAKER--YESHAYAU--NISSIM SPEAKS ENGLISH.)

6. COMMENT: OTHER LIKUD NAMES THAT WE HAVE HEARD FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP: VETERAN LIKUD MK YOSEF TAMIR AND LA'AM MK ELIEZAR SHOSTAK. THE NRP (PARTICULARLY ITS YOUTH FACTION) WANTS TO NOMINATE ITS LEADER, YOSEF BURG, BUT THUS FAR BURG SEEMS RELUCTANT. DULZIN IS REGARDED AS A DOVE IN THE LIBERAL PARTY AND AMONG LIKUDNIKS, BUT WAS CAREFUL LAST NIGHT TO AVOID INDICATING ANY AREA OF DISAGREEMENT WITH BEGIN OR THE HERUT PARTY ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES.

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